

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4 GARBLED)

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION -- PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH

1. MASS-CIRCULATION THAI-LANGUAGE "THAI RATH", IN COMMENT BY COLUMNIST "PALAD LUDE", CALLED PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON USSR "AGGRESSIVE STATEMENT" AND WENT ON TO APPEAL TO BOTH SIDES NOT TO TURN "WAR OF WORDS" INTO "NUCLEAR WAR".
2. INDEPENDENT CHINESE-LANGUAGE "THAI SHANG JIT PAO" SAYS PRESIDENT'S APEECH MADE IN "SOBER, REASONABLE, AND MODERATE TONE BUT ALSO EXPRESSED THE FUNDAMENTAL FIRMNESS AND TOUGHNESS OF THE U.S." AND CONCLUDES "PRESIDENT CARTER KNOWS THE SOVIET TRICKS AND SHOULD WAKE UP EARLY TO STOP THEM IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PEACE. MR. CARTER SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY MORE BEAUTIFUL DREAMS ABOUT 'DETENTE' NOW."
3. BOTH OF THE ABOVE COMMENTARIES QUOTED PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE TO SOVIETS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN CONFRONTATION OR COOPERATION AND HIS COMMENT THAT U.S. ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO MEET EITHER EVENT-UALITY.
4. PRO-PEKING CHINESE-LANGUAGE "CHUNG HUA JIT PAO" COMMENTS AS

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FOLLOWS: "FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH DELIVERED TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY, WE NOTE THAT IT IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS SHOWN A CONSIDERABLY TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION SINCE HE TOOK UP OFFICE. HE CLEARLY POINTED OUT THAT IT IS UP TO THE SOVIET UNION TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN CONFRONTATION AND COOPERATION AND THE UNITED STATES IS ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO MEET EITHER CHOICE. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT

THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES HAVE SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO COPE WITH ANY THREAT AND THEY ARE IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION. THIS INDICATES THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO MEET THE SOVIET CHOICE BE IT EITHER 'PEACEFUL STRUGGLE' OR 'MILITARY STRUGGLE'. THE TONE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH, THOUGH IT CANNOT BE REGARDED AS A DELIBERATE CHALLENGE, HAS MADE CLEAR THE AMERICAN DETERMINATION TO COUNTER THE SOVIET UNION IF IT CHOOSES CONFRONTATION. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NOT HARD TO SEE THAT TENSION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION IS ESCALATING TO A NEW HEIGHT."

5. INDEPENDENT "HSING HSIAN JIT PAO", LARGEST CHINESE-LANGUAGE PAPER, COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: "PRESIDENT CARTER MADE AN IMPORTANT POLICY SPEECH WHICH WAS AIMED AT THE SOVIET UNION AND ALSO EXPLAINED THE UNITED STATES' STANCE ON SOVIET UNION.

"THE IMPORTANT POINT OF THE SPEECH IS TO LET THE SOVIET UNION MAKE UP ITS CHOICE, EITHER CONFRONTATION OR COOPERATION, AND THE U.S. IS ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO MEET EITHER CHOICE. THIS IS THE MOST PROPER AND CLEAR-CUT ATTITUDE, WITH NEITHER THREAT NOR SUBMISSION, THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SHOWN DURING THE DIPLOMATIC AND RHETORIC WAR WITH THE SOVIET UNION SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE.

"AFTER CAREFULLY STUDYING PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH, IT CAN BE SEEN THAT ITS POLITICAL MEANING IS STRONGER THAN ITS MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGNIFICANCE DETENTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION BY POINTING OUT THAT DETENTE MUST BE REALLY RECIPROCAL.

"NO DOUBT THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT OPENLY EXPRESS TO CHOOSE CONFRONTATION BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN LINE WITH ITS STRATEGY IN ITS CAMPAIGN FOR EAST-WEST DETENTE AND IS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES TO CONCLUSION OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON SALT.

"BUT HOW ABOUT COOPERATION? IT IS ONLY EMPTY WORDS AND IT IS IMPRACTICAL TO EXPECT COOPERATION IN THE BASIC POLICIES AND INTERESTS BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS."

6. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "NATION" HAS NOT YET MADE ITS OWN COMMENTS ON SPEECH BUT DID RUN EXCERPTS FROM COMMENTS OF BRITISH PAPERS ON ITS EDITORIAL PAGE.

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